



"The World Will Beat a Path to Your Door"

The words of Former US President Bill Clinton in his keynote address to the Ontario Economic Summit on November 21. The event, which is organized by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, brings together the thought leaders of business, labour, academia, non-profit organizations and government in a common goal to collaborate, innovate and lead Ontario to greater economic prosperity. The president spoke to the over-arching theme of this year's conference, "Towards Ontario's Next Great Era".

President Clinton spoke of "Embracing Our Common Humanity", the need to think and act globally. The critical need for collaboration and cooperation. Talked about the good work that the Clinton Foundation is doing on AIDS, HIV and poverty.

There were three "over-arching" sub-themes for the Summit this year and he spoke to each of them.

He referred to Canada's public health care model and compared it favourably with that in the US, even after the launch of "Obama-care". But said we in Ontario have to work hard to find more efficient and effective ways of delivering health care. We can't sustain a system where the costs continue to escalate.

Spoke highly of Ontario's green energy initiatives, remarking that he loves coming in past that "humungous windmill" - we're a province that he says is "in the future business". Said that green energy generation doesn't need subsidies forever. "The government is the insurer of last resort for nuclear power. That's the biggest subsidy you can get. So, I think you should stay with this clean energy thing."

And he talked about cities and urban regions. Sounded a bit like Richard Florida in "The Great Reset" when he describes mega-regions. As the population continues to urbanize, how critically important it is to get it right. Planning. Social and built infrastructure. Sustainability.

As he wrapped up his comments, he enumerated those three themes, saying each time "If you get that right, the world will beat a path to your door."

Steve Pakin of TVO wrapped up the evening with a terrific interview of President Clinton. On the TVO website, he says that Clinton's handlers pre-screened the questions to make sure he couldn't ask anything that would actually be interesting. No talk of US politics. Nothing on international affairs given Hillary is the Secretary of State. Keystone ... nope. The list of no-no's was long. But when Clinton shook Pakin's hand to start the interview, he said "Ask me anything." And Pakin did, opening with "*From north of the border, your political system looks utterly dysfunctional. Is it?*" [Check out the TVO website for President Clinton's response and the rest of Pakin's recollections of the interview.](#)